

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

## **Regular Meeting – June 14, 2012**

### **Item 1: Meeting Called to Order by Lenna Watson at 12:20 p.m.**

Meeting Location: Tiara Rado Golf Course Club House

#### Roll Call

Board Members Present: Lenna Watson  
Dr. William Findlay  
Tawny Espinoza  
Dr. Scott McBrayer  
Jim Doody (Ex-Officio)

Board Members Absent: Scott Coleman  
David McInay  
Bart Dickson

Parks & Recreation Staff Present: Rob Schoeber, Director  
Tressa Fisher, Administrative Specialist  
Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent  
Mike Vendegna, Parks Superintendent  
Lorie Gregor, Recreation Coordinator

Guests: Nina Larsson, Grand Mesa Medical  
Gabriel Herrera, Grand Mesa Medical  
Dawn Palmer, Grand Mesa Medical  
Rob Bleiberg, Mesa Land and Trust  
Libby Collins, Mesa Land and Trust

### **Item 2: Approval of Minutes**

Dr. William Findlay moved to approve the May 3, 2012 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board minutes. Dr. Scott McBrayer seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Motion adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Yes 4 No 0

### **Item 3: Outstanding Parks Partner – Grand Mesa Medical**

Lorie Gregor presented the Outstanding Parks Partner award to Grand Mesa Medical, and discussed their ongoing support for numerous events, including the Senior Games, Poker Walk, and Deuces Wild. Mrs. Gregor stated Grand Mesa Medical is a local family owned business that truly cares about the community. Dawn Palmer accepted the award on behalf of Grand Mesa Medical and expressed her gratitude for her boss who, not only provides monetary support, but also allows their employees the time to get involved with community activities. Ms. Palmer stated the employees appreciate the opportunity and truly believe in what they are doing. Rob Schoeber reported on a recent conversation he had with a local senior who expressed his appreciation for Deuces Wild, stating the event is the highlight of his month. Lenna Watson thanked Grand Mesa Medical on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

**Item 4: Three Sisters Update**

Mesa Land Trust Executive Director Bob Bleiberg introduced himself and Libby Collins, who both gave a presentation on the 130 acre Three Sisters property located on Monument Road (See attached). The close proximity to the downtown area provides an opportunity for the City to connect the riverfront property to the Three Sisters property. Libby Collins briefly discussed several of the existing trails and the hopes of extending those trails in the near future. Mesa Land Trust's mission is to conserve agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, and scenic open space in and around Mesa County to benefit the community at large. Mesa Land Trust closed on the property June 5, 2012, and is transferring the ownership of the property to the City of Grand Junction. Mesa Land Trust is also in the process of developing a Park Development and Management Plan, as they were recently awarded a \$675,000 GOCO grant, which requires a conservation easement to ensure the natural aspects of the project are protected. The grant also requires the property be used for recreational and educational uses only, and that it must be developed and managed per the open space quadrant guidelines.

The two discussed the proposed plans for the property, including the potential need for overflow parking. Numerous partners are involved with the project, and are encouraging others to get involved. The total project cost is \$1.6 million, with only \$25,000 of the funding still needing to be raised. Mesa Land Trust has seen amazing support from the community with over 500 donations being received to date. The current plan is to incorporate the Three Sisters property into the existing MOU with the City and BLM. The official grand opening is tentatively scheduled for fall 2012. The public will be invited to review the Park Development and Management Plan, which will be hosted by the City and Mesa Land Trust sometime in July 2012. Mesa Land Trust is currently requesting the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board review the plan and make a recommendation to City Council no later than fall 2012. Mesa Land Trust's goal is for it to be a "turn key" project for the City when the time comes, and stated they are continually looking for input and new ideas throughout the development process.

**Item 5: GOCO Update**

Traci Wieland reported that while it is not "official" yet, she has been notified the GOCO application for Lincoln Park has been recommended for approval. The official approval is scheduled for June 19, 2012. The \$250,000 grant will be allocated towards the arboretum trail, additional concrete trails, an accessible playground, and the closure of the loop road. Rob Schoeber stated the Lincoln Park redevelopment project consisted of three phases of which the third phase (grand entrance, tennis courts, and relocation of the horseshoe pits) has been left unfunded; however, City Council has recently given approval for this phase to be completed, in order to finish the entire park at once.

**Item 6:** The new restrooms at Lincoln Park are  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way finished. The replacement pump system at Canyon View Park was completed yesterday, and the new parking lot project has also been completed, with temporary striped parking spaces along G Road. The fence and sidewalk were both moved inward along the north side of G Road to allow adequate room for parked cars backing out, eliminating the need for cars to have to back into G Road before accelerating into busy traffic. The additional parking lot and G Road changes have created an additional 110 parking spaces. The new sidewalk at Canyon View Park is also complete, connecting the entire trail system and creating a loop around the entire park.

**Item 7: Farewell to Outgoing Board Members Lenna Watson and Dr. William Findlay**

Rob Schoeber thanked outgoing Board members Lenna Watson and Dr. William Findlay for their ongoing support and dedication to the City of Grand Junction. Both members have been extremely active on the Board throughout the community and will be missed dearly. Good luck on your future endeavors Lenna and Bill!

**Item 8: For the Good of the Community**

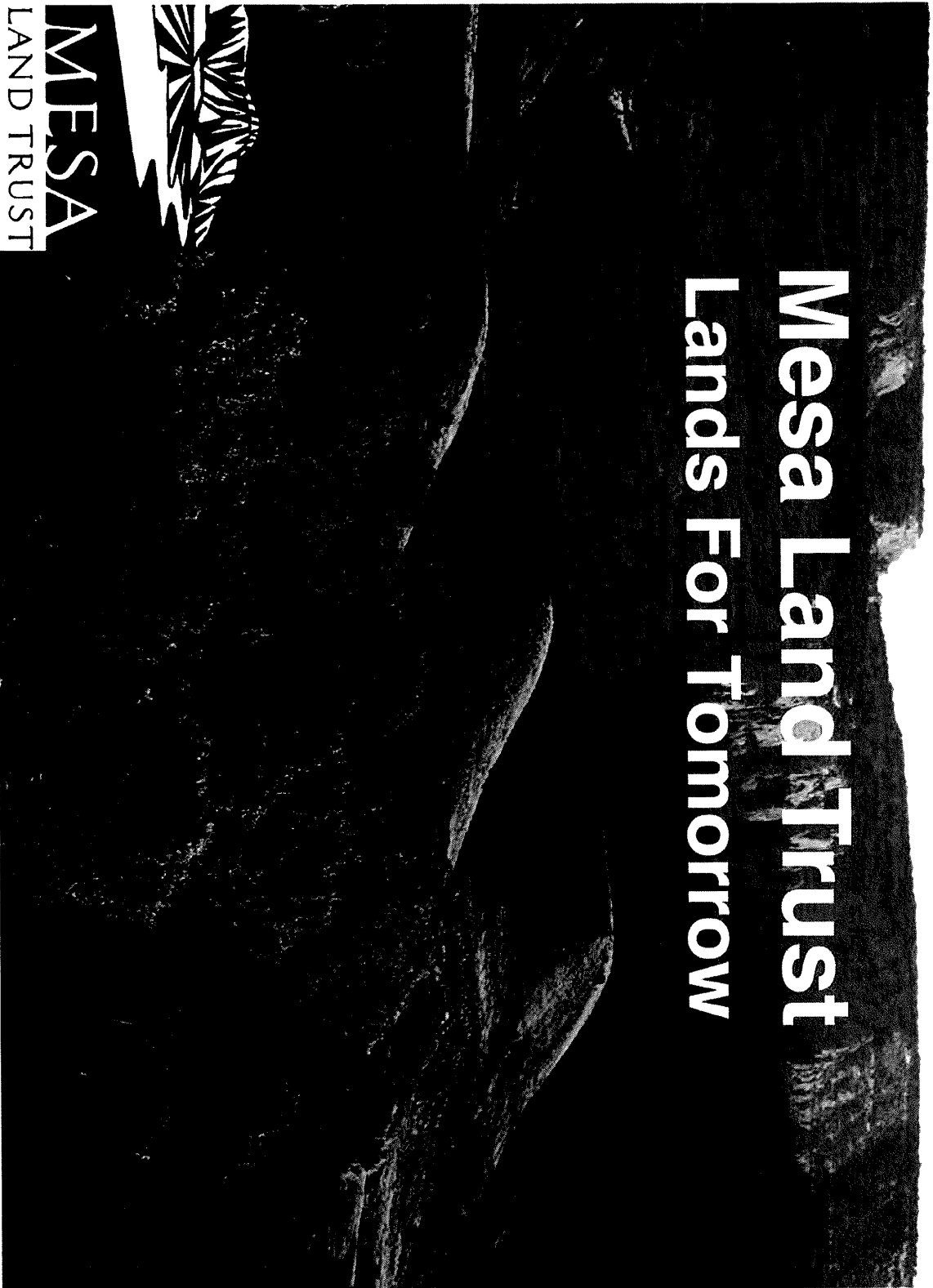
No additional items were discussed

**Item 9: Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

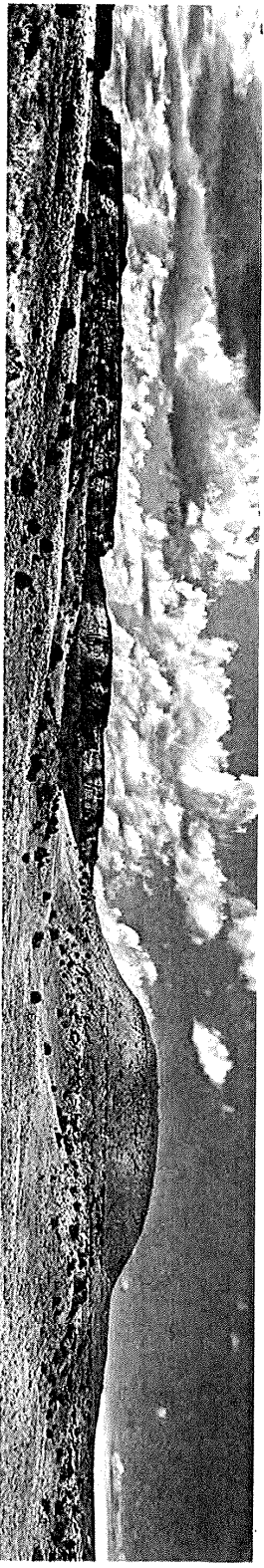
Tressa Fisher  
Administrative Specialist





## **Mesa Land Trust's Mission**

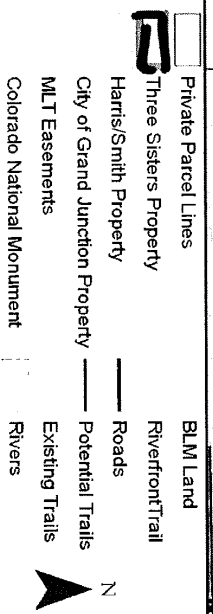
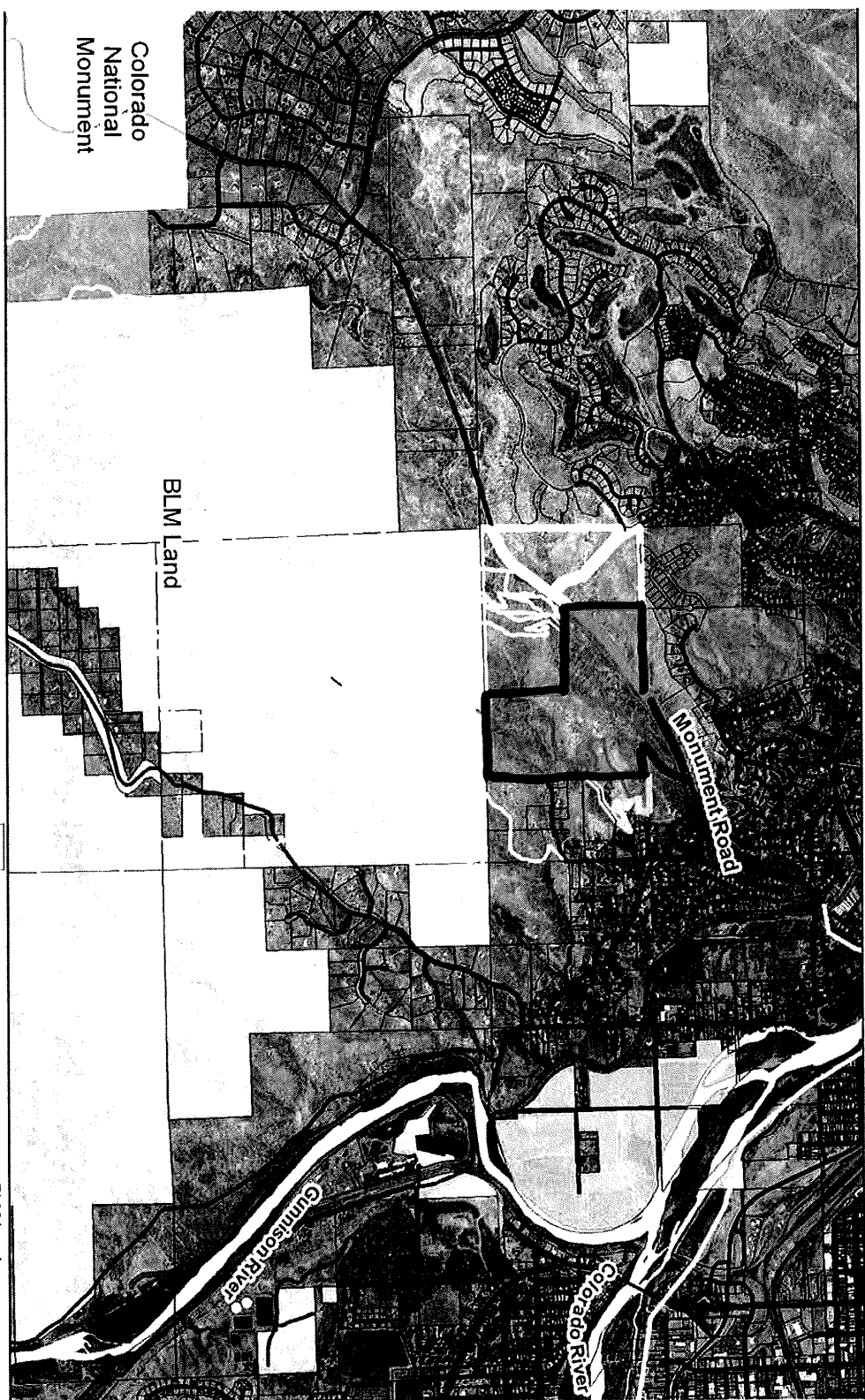
*To conserve agricultural lands,  
wildlife habitat, and scenic open  
space in and around Mesa  
County to benefit the community  
at large.*



## **Three Sisters Property**

- 130 acres on Monument Road
- Adjacent to Lunch Loop trails
- Gentle terrain is perfect for beginner biking and hiking trails
- Ideal location, inspiring a future connection to the Riverfront Trail system

### Three Sisters Property: Surrounding Land Uses

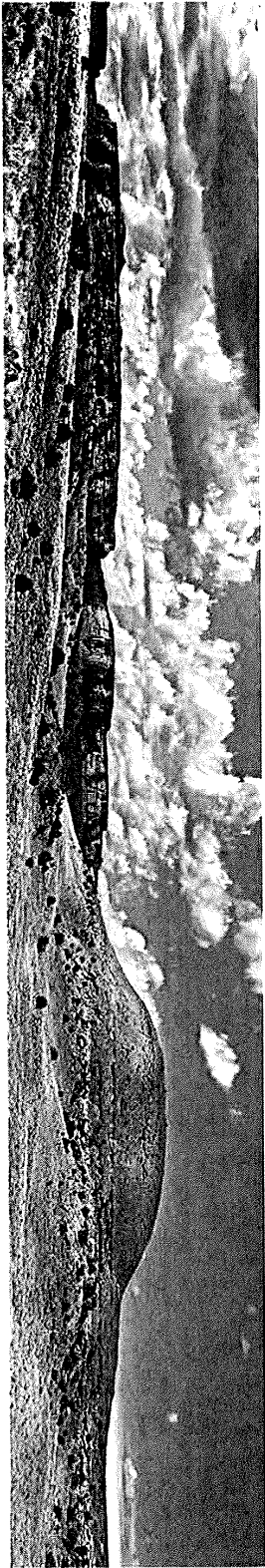




## MLT Goals of the Project

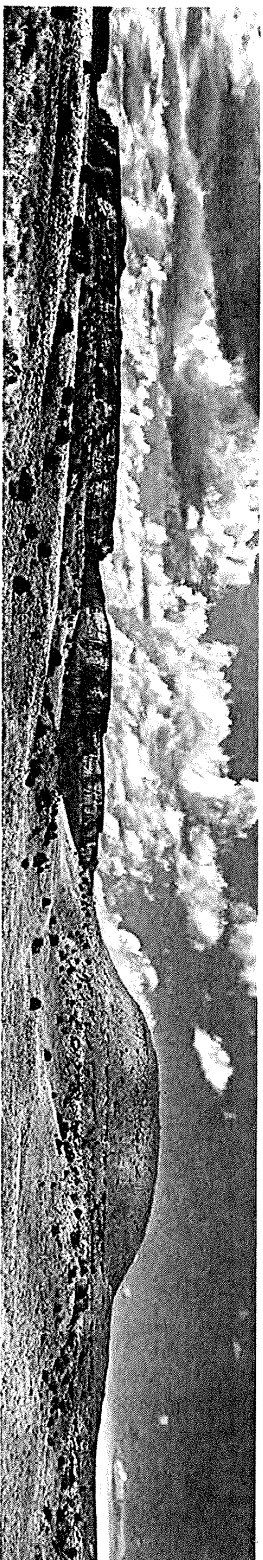
- Protect view sheds along the corridor leading to the Colorado National Monument and from Lunch Loop
- Expand Tabeguache area trails, for families and youth
- Provide recreational and environmental education opportunities
- Assist with connection of downtown and Riverfront Trails to Lunch Loop





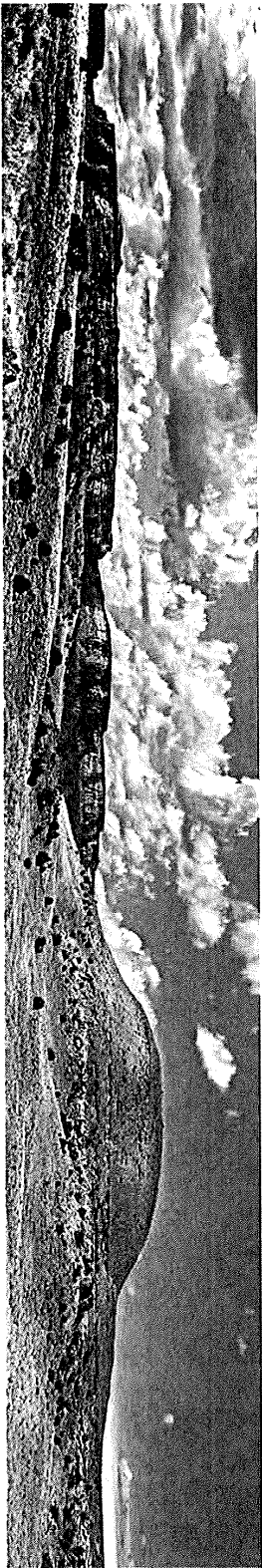
## **Project Update**

- Acquired Three Sisters Property, June 5th
- Placed a conservation easement on property
- Transferred ownership of property to the City
- MLT in process of creating the Park Development & Management Plan



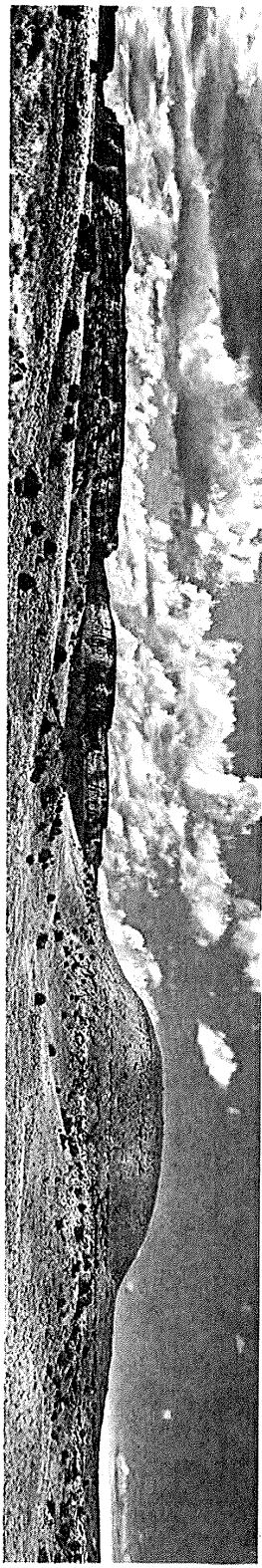
## Conservation Easement

- GOOCO Grant (awarded \$675K) requires a conservation easement on the property
- Purpose of Easement:
  - To ensure that the natural, scenic, open space, wildlife habitat and recreational values of the Property are protected
  - To provide guidelines for Park Development and the Management Plan



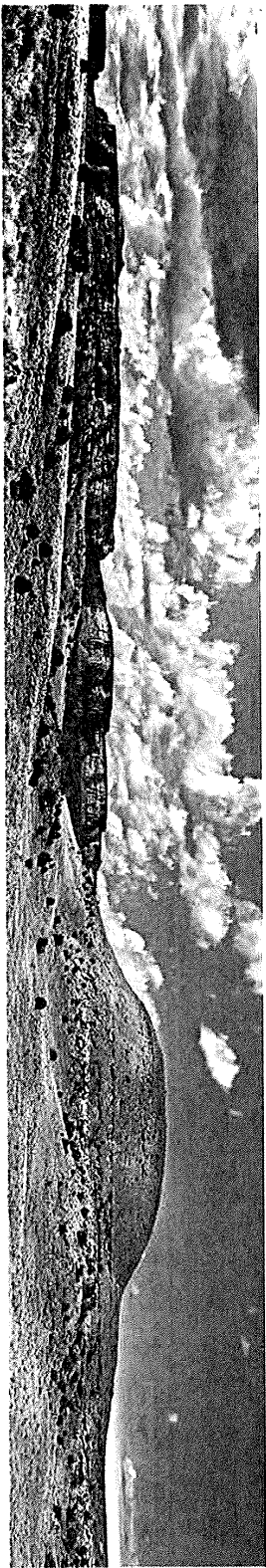
## Conservation Easement Guidelines

- Property will be used for Recreational and Educational uses
- Requirements for trails and trail construction
- Determines allowable site improvements



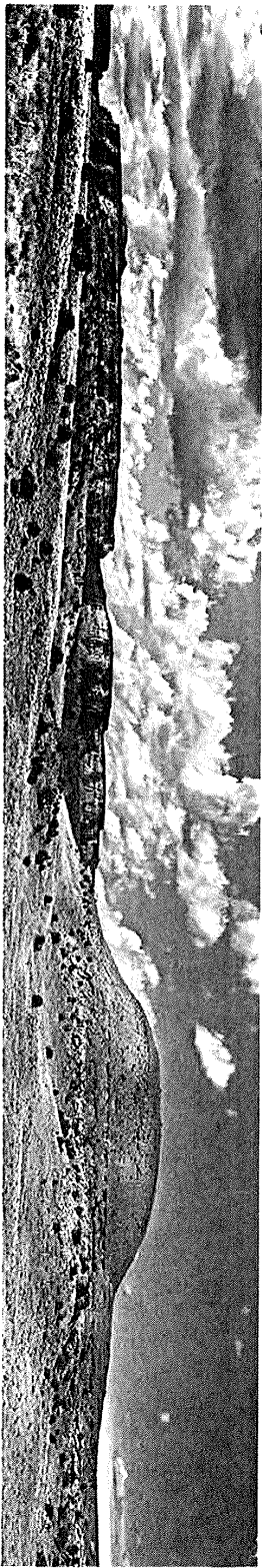
## **MOU as for City and BLM Management**

- Current MOU defines management roles of City and BLM for Lunch Loop area
- Management of Three Sisters will be incorporated into that MOU
- Mesa Land Trust, per Easement, will provide written consent for site improvements including trail construction
- Mesa Land Trust to ensure compliance with **Easement**



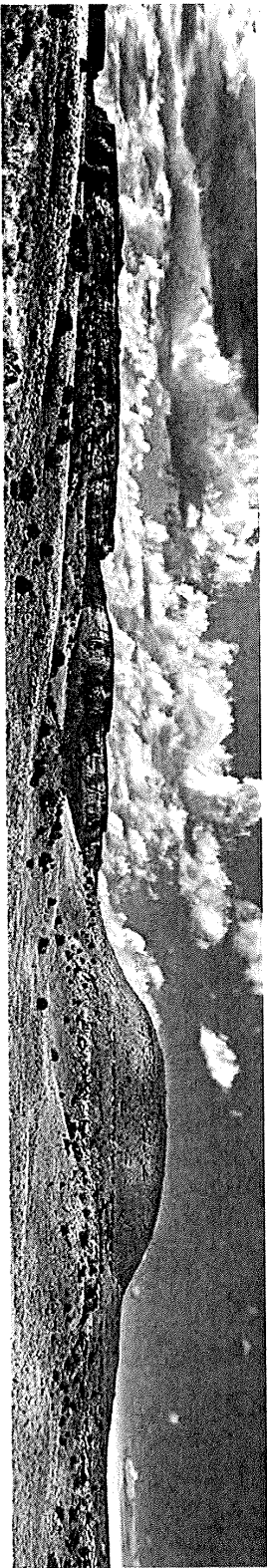
## Time Line for Park Development

- Trail design by COPMOBA, Summer 2012
- Trail Construction of 1-2 trails, COPMOBA, Fall 2012
- Other Trail Construction, Spring 2013
- Educational/Interpretive signs/app, Spring 2012
- Official grand opening, sign installation, celebration, Fall 2012



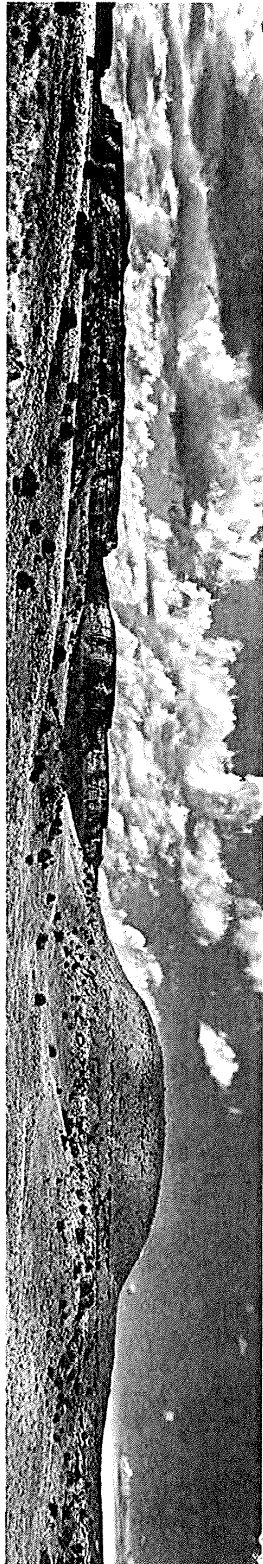
## Park & Management Plan Process for Approval

- Parks & Rec Board introduced to the project, today
- Public invited to review the draft Park Plan hosted by City/MLT, July 2012
- Parks & Rec Board and City Council to make recommendation on final Park Plan, not later than fall 2012



## Fundraising Update

- Total project cost is \$1.6 million
- Left to raise \$25,000
- Alpine Bank Challenge: Bank will match every donation through June 30<sup>th</sup>, up to \$12,500
- Have a Dos Hombres Lunch Loop Margarita in June – profits to Three Sisters



# Benefits to the Community

- Add turn-key park to City
- Add capacity to trail network, particularly family and youth friendly trails
- Promote recreation tourism
- Promote safe bike path connection from downtown and Riverfront Trails to Lunch Loop
- Protect scenic gateway to Colorado National Monument